

cessions were made which removed the cause of the objections which had been raised. The hon. gentleman was advocating to-day a precisely similar sectional tax. He was asking the House to affirm that it would be wise to put a duty on coal which the people of Ontario would be called upon to pay for the benefit of only a section of the Province of Nova Scotia. He (Mr. Jones) did not desire to underrate the importance of the Island of Cape Breton or of the mineral resources of the Province of Nova Scotia. They admitted that they were of very great value, but his hon. friend must know that a large section of Nova Scotia was not interested in the coal question.

MR. McDONALD (Cape Breton): What about the capitalists of Halifax.

MR. JONES said if they invested their money in that interest, they must take the same chance as if they invested it in other enterprises, and there were a great many enterprises which yielded them no better returns than the mines of Cape Breton. He regretted that these were not in a more flourishing condition. But if, gentlemen invested their capital in these industries they did so from other than patriotic ideas. They did so with a view of getting a good return, and if, unfortunately, they could not get a return it was to be regretted. The hon. gentleman said that, of course, the member from Nova Scotia, would vote for a proposition of this kind. He (Mr. Jones) very much doubted if they would. A large section of Nova Scotia was opposed to this tax. How, for instance, were Kings, Hants, Annapolis, Digby, Lunenburg, Antigonish and Guysborough interested, except in the way in which any county was indirectly interested in the prosperity of the whole Dominion? The hon. gentleman would lead the people to believe that the majority of people in Nova Scotia, were interested in the coal mines. So far from that being the case, the coal interest, though an important one, was not to be compared to the fishing or lumber interests of that Province.

MR. MacDONNELL: Are not all the people of Nova Scotia interested in coal mining, inasmuch as there is a royalty

MR. JONES.

on coal which goes to swell the Exchequer of the Province?

MR. JONES asked what this House had to do with that question. It was true that the more tons of coal that were raised in Nova Scotia the more money was paid into the exchequer of Nova Scotia. But there was more money invested in, and more profit derived from fishing pursuits than from mining pursuits. These gentlemen knew perfectly well that they never could get a duty on coal unless it was accompanied by an increase of the tariff all round. Reference had been made to a resolution passed by the manufacturers in Toronto. What was the meaning of that? Those gentlemen had been endeavouring for the last three or four years to bring a pressure upon this Parliament to increase the percentage upon manufactured goods. They passed a resolution the meaning of which was that they were willing to admit, a duty on coal, but they knew that that meant the increase of the tariff on goods in which they were interested, which would be more than an equivalent. These people who were promoting a tariff on coal would have more taken out of their pockets in the duties they would be called upon to contribute on other articles than the benefit which they expected to derive, though he did not admit they would derive it from the increased protection to the mines. There was nothing this Parliament could do in that direction which would not actually hamper such an industry as the large fishing industry of Nova Scotia. It was argued by hon. gentlemen opposite that in case of an increase in the tariff they would have a larger number of people to consume the goods; but he challenged the hon. gentlemen opposite to point out any way, directly or indirectly, in which the Government could benefit the fishermen at all. The catch they took from the sea was not consumed in this country, but had to go abroad, and yet these gentlemen representing a large body, asked Parliament to impose a large additional obligation upon the fishermen for the sake of a few people interested in coal. Then, in the case of lumber, they could not in-